

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 680

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Nat T. Winston, Jr.,
of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Nat T. Winston, Jr., a pioneer in mental health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Winston was a leading health professional whose work in psychiatry had a significant impact not only on the quality of life of the patients he served, but also on the field of psychiatry as a whole; and

WHEREAS Nat Winston was born in Johnson City, Tennessee, where he attended the local public schools and after graduation courageously served his country as a first lieutenant in the infantry in the Pacific in World War II; and

WHEREAS, after serving his country, Nat Winston pursued a career in medicine and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Vanderbilt Medical School in 1953, served as a surgical resident at the University of Virginia Hospital from 1953 to 1955, and then returned to Vanderbilt to complete a three-year psychiatric residency; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Dr. Winston began a private practice in his home town of Johnson City, Tennessee, where he also became the first director of the Johnson City Mental Health Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Winston was appointed the first Superintendent of the Moccasin Bend Psychiatric Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he initiated a program that received national acclaim for bringing about a “quiet revolution in the treatment of the mentally ill”; and

WHEREAS, Nat T. Winston Jr.’s substantial contributions to medicine were recognized when he was chosen to serve the people of Tennessee as the Commissioner of Mental Health for Tennessee under Governor Frank Clement and again under Governor Buford Ellington; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Commissioner of Mental Health for Tennessee, Dr. Winston led Tennessee to the forefront of mental health care, including a number three ranking in the nation in the number of patients released per capita expenditure; and

WHEREAS, active in the political realm, he served as the State Campaign Chairman for the successful senatorial race of U.S. Senator Bill Brock, served as the National Chairman of the Country and Western Stars for the Re-election of the President, was the Co-Chairman for the election of Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander in 1987, and ran for Governor of Tennessee in 1974; and

WHEREAS, President Ford appointed Dr. Winston to the Federal Council on the Aging in 1976 and he sat on the Professional Advisory Committee for the National Association of Mental Health in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Winston was the chairman of CareNet, Inc., an organization that serves incarcerated molested teenagers, a program that he also spread to Mississippi, Kentucky, Alabama, and Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, his expertise was in high demand; Dr. Winston served on the board of many hospitals throughout the nation, including the Tulane Medical School Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Winston was the recipient of many awards, including "Outstanding Citizen of Nashville" in 1969, the 2005 Beyond the Call award in honor of his exceptional commitment to his field, as well as the 2006 Dorothea Dix award for his outstanding contributions to psychiatry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Winston's work helped to define current accepted practices and standards, including revolutionary, patient-centered treatment programs, new Tennessee mental health codes, and raising the standard of psychiatric care across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nat T. Winston Jr., also had a passion for Appalachian music which led him to produce a banjo instructional record series entitled, *How to Play* that sold over 500,000 copies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Winston truly loved Appalachian culture and was considered an expert and ambassador to the history, music, and people of the region; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Winston leaves behind a loving wife, Martha Casey Winston; his children, Sarah Winston Cooper, Nat T. Winston III, John H. Winston V, and step son Robert M. Schneider; and his sister, Amy Winston Holt; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Nat T. Winston, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his illustrious career which earned him the respect of his peers in the field of psychiatry and the gratitude of the citizens of Tennessee for his dedication to improving the mental health care available to the people of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Winston.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.